ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

——OF THE——

Twentieth Annual Session:

——OF THE——

GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

——HELD WITH——

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Dale County Alabama, October 21,22,23, 1896.

----OFFICERS----

Rev. J. F. Register.....Moderator.
W. L. Chancey.....Clerk.

The next session will be held with Fellowship Baptist Church, beginning on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1897.....

CITIZEN JOB PRINT GENEVA, ALA.

Minutes.

The twentieth Annual session of the Geneva Baptist Association was held with the Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, beginning October, 21st, 1896.

The introductory sermon was preached at 11, a. m. by Rev. P. L. Moseley, from Nehemiah 4:19.

After a recess of two hours and a good dinner the body was called to order by Bro. J F Register, when the letters from eighteen churches were handed in and read by brethren J. D. Parkman and P L Moseley.

The body was then permanently organized by re-electing Bro. J. F. Register, Moderator and W. L. Chancey, Clerk and Tresurer.

The names of the delegates were enrolled as follows: Adoniram—R. H. Martin, W. L Chancey, G W Canant. Christian Home—M M Skipper, C T Love. Elbethel—R H Foxhall. Fellowship—E Roach, Jas. J. Watson. Friendship—T F Sellars, J A Bell. Geneva. J F Register, P L Moseley, B J Castellow, M F Fleming. Hurricane, J W Taylor. Leonia, John A Gilman, Andrew Stanley. New Hope, D J Renfroe, J L Owens. New Prospect B R Messer. New Teamon, George Vickers, J S Humphrey. Pilgrims Rest (Coffee,) William Hall. Pilgrims Rest (Dale,) David Carrol, Jere Pate, L D Sasser, J R Watford. Pleasant Grove, E A Majors, W T Lewis, Mathews. Pleasant Hill, J M Farmer, J J Stearling, James Blount. Shiloah, M M Dean, M F Brackins. Spring Creek, T H Crutchfield, M H Crutchfield. Union, J K Martin, J C Yoemons. Zion Hill, W M Fortson, R S Lunsford.

The petitionary letter from Pilgrims Rest church, Coffee county was handed in, the delegates received and the hand of fellowship extended them by the moderator in behalf of the association. Bretheren J

F Pouncy, J J Beckham, J D Parkman and Rev. Pink Dowling were received as correspondents from the Newton Association.

The following committees were appointed by the moderator:

Religious exercises—Delegates of Pilgrims Rest church and bretheren John Starling and Geo. Canant. Missions—P L Moseley, R H Foxhall, and M F Fleming. Temperance—M A Crutchfield, F F Sellars, and C T Love. Sunday Schools— James Blout, J A Gillman, B R Messer. Finance, James Watson, William Hall and M M Dean.. Periodicals—E Roach, R H Foxhall, R H Martin. Nominations—E A Majors, J W Ezell, David Carroll. Bible Distribution, B. J. Castellow, J A Bell, M T Brackin. Education, M F Fleming, James Taylor. D ceased Ministers, J G Canant, D J Renfroe, David Carroll.

Committee reported that Bro. James Blount would preach at 4 p. m. Adjourned till 8 o'clock Thursday morning.

SECOND DAY.

The association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro J F Pouncey. S O Y Ray was received as the representative of the board, and Bro. A. R. Hardy as the representative of the Greensboro church. Brethren R F Singletterry and F L Taylor were received as correspondents of the Graves Association Florida.

Bro. Roach read the following report on periodicals which was adopted;

We, your committee on periodicals beg leave to make the following report: We would urge upon the brethren the importance of taking the Alabama Baptist, Texas Baptist Standard, Kind Words, and Foreign Mission Journal, and reading such books as "What Baptist believe" and "Baptist Position," that they may be enlightened, strengthened, encouraged and brought in sympathy and harmony with the

great Baptist brotherhood. We suggest the propriety of reduction in price of religious literature, believing it would tend largely to increase its circulation.

E. Roach, Chairman.

Discussed by brethren Roach, Moseley, Pourcey and Dowling.

The report on deceased ministers was read by Bro. G. J. Canant as follows:

We find that through the wisdom of God, all the ministers of this association have been spared another year and for his purpose he has called to that home beyond two deacons, Bro. William Anderson of Shiloh church and bro. T. H. Holloway of Pilgrims Rest.

G. J. Canant, Chairman.

After the reading of the report it was announced that Rev. J. A. Huggins was dead. Good talks were made by brethren Canant, Blunt and Register on the life of the deceased brother: bro. Huggins was born May 5th 1814 in Darlington S. C., and died October 14th 1896. He was greatly afflicted for the last three years of his life and these afflictions were borne with Christian resignation. He joined the church at 17 years of age and spent over 50 years in the ministry and 35 years in S. E. Alabama and Florida.

Temperance report was then read and adopted:

We, your committee, would report that the cause of temperance in some parts of our country is rapidly advancing and we feel confident that some progress is being made in our own bounds but there is much room for improvement along this line. We pray God that the day may soon come when the great evil, strong drink may be driven from our fair land and our boys freed from the great temptation. We therefore recommend that our pastors preach frequently upon the subject of temperance and that our churches discipline their members for the intemperate use of alcoholic spirits.

M. A. Crutchfield, Chairman.

Discussed by bretheren Castellow, Moseley, and others.

On motion of Bro. Blunt the Sunday Sdhool report of last year was adopted.

Report: Yrur special cmmittee on Sabbath schools beg leave to make the following report: The Sun. day school is not designed to supercede but to aid family instruction. It must be remembered, always, that religious trainlng in the family can not be dispensed with. Pariental obligations can no more be transefred than parental relatives can be changed. But it may be assumed as a fact that those parents who are most faithful in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord must gladly avail themselves of the aid furnished by Sunday school instruction. And then how many ungodly parents are to be found everywhere who are incompetent to give their children religious training and who would not if they were competent. Are these children to be uncared for? No, nor those whose parents are dead. The sympathies of all generous hearts are enlisted in behalf of orphans. All children are suitable subjects for the Sunday school. Whether their parents are pious, ungodly or dead, let all the children be gathered together to receive religious training on the Lords day. Superintendents and teachers of Sunday schools must remember that scriptural instruction is the one thing to be kept in view. The Sunday School Times makes an excellent point on this and gives us this word of wisdom. "It is not the scholar who enters but the scholar who learns, that indicates the character and measure of success of the Sunday school. Getting new scholars is the simplest and easiest part of Sunday school work. It is easier to get a scholar than to keep him; easier to keep him than to train him in external christian duties—easier to do all this than to win his heart to the acceptance and following of Christ and his Savior;

easier to lead him into Christs kingdom than to waken his ambition and direct his energies for active self sacrificing service therein. Not the swelling figures of the secretary's annual report, but the truths taught in Gods divine word which illuminates the mind, the lives changed, the workman trained for Christ's service. These are the things that make a successful Sunday school. Literary instruction, properly so called, is given in week-day schools. The impartation and reception of scriptural knowledge are the distinguishing features of the Sunday school. Great care should be exercised in the selection of Sunday school libraries. Books inculcating erroneous views must be rejected, and the literature provided for the children must be religious and evangelical. Sunday school teachers should make it a point to urge, by personal appeal, the claims of the gospel upon every scholar. Every such appeal ought to be preceeded, accompanied and followed up by earnest prayer to God for his blessing. Without his approving smile, no effort will be successful. Let us say a few words as to the relation of Sunday school to the churches. Ordinarily these schools are formed by the churches and permitted to use their houses of worship. They should be carried on under the general direction of the churches and be held responsible thereto. A church should regard its Sunday school as one of the agencies by which to meet its obligations to train the rising generation in the fear of God. And when this is the case, the church is really at work in the Sunday school. It would be a happy circumstance if facts would authorize this definition of a Sunday school. A church actively at work on the Lord's day for the good of the children. One should put himself into his church for all he is worth, and for all he weighs as a Sunday school worker. He should be better at nothing and in no position than at such work as a christian in his church.

One may be a better church member than he is a christian, but no one can be a better christian than he is a church member. His church life is the expression of his religious life, and can be no better expressed than in Sunday school work. The classes of the school it has been well said should be composed not only of children but also of grown up people in the neighborhood—grand fathers and grand mothers, fathers and mothers, men and women. The school should be considered one of the regular meetings of the church. Pastors should summon the entire people to assemble on the Lord's day, either as teachers or scholars. It should be considered as inexcusable for fathers and mothers to absent themselves from the Bible classes as for boys and girls to absent themselves from the Sunday school. That pastor who will speak to his congregation on this subject three minutes before sermon each Sunday for one year, and then work to get up classes as he may be able through the week will be astonished at the result. And ten years of such effort by all the ministers of the gospel would work a complete revolvtion in the churches. Instances might be given to show that a church sometimes more than doubles its power by employing its private members in this way. And we, your committee, recommend that every church in this Association take this matter in hand, as a church, and that, under the direction of the several churches, in conference recommend and organize a Sabbath School and let each member obligate himself to take an active part and urge others to do the same.—Respectfully submitted.

A. B. Jernigan, Chairman.

Discussed by Bretheren Ray, Hardy, Castellow, Roach and others.

The following report on Bible Distribution was read by Bro. B. J. Castellow:

Dear Bretheren:—We your committee on Bible

Distribution beg leave to submit the following. The distribution of God's Word is a work of great importance and is, we fear, often neglected and we recommend that should the association continue to do a mission work it should be made the duty of the missionary to carry bibles and testaments, as has been done for the past two or three years. Should this not be done, your committe thinks it would be well for the pastors to carry them, and this would do some good in distributing the Word of God · Respectfully submitted, B. J. Castellow, Chairman.

On motion adopted.

Dr. M. F. Fleming read the report on education as follows :

We, your committee on education, are very much pleased to know that the people in the bounds of this association are taking more and more interest each year in trying to educate their children. We see in almost every community a neat and comfortable school building, whose schools are taught a part of each year. We would call attention to the fact, however, that the time taught in most of these schools, in our opinion, is too short. We would also recommend that brethren, in selecting teachers, should be very careful to employ men and women of high moral and christian character, as well as high literary attainments. Brethren, let each one of us pray for the advancement of this great cause, that our children, when called on to take our places, may be better prepared than we have been to fight the battles of life.

M. F. Fleming, Chairman.

Discussed by brethren Hardy and Ray.

Report on Missions was read by Bro. P. L. Moseley.

On motion, the report was adopted.

Report as follows: We would report that very little misson work has been done in our bounds during the past year, and judging from the amount of mission money raised by our churches, we greatly

fear that the mission spirit is on the decline in our association. Now, brethren, so long as we claim the name, Missionary, we should put forth our best efforts not only to have the gospel preached to every one in our midst but to those in far off lands whom we can never meet till the great Judgement Day. If we believe that the spirit of missions is the spirit of Christ and that his work must deepen and widen till the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, can we honestly believe that we are followers of Christ and yet refuse to take part in this grand work? If we believe what we profess, let us prove our faith by our works and obey our Redeemers great command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

We recommend that this association put a missionary in the field and that he be required to make report of his work to the State Board and to distribute Baptist literature and supply the people with Bibles. Also that our pastors take collections for missions regularly and that we encourage the evangelistic work by our prayers, efforts and means.

P. L. Moseley, Chairman.

Discussed by brethren Ray, Hardy, Moseley and others.

Report on nominations was next read and adopted.

We, your committee on nominations would submit the following: We recommend Bro. James Blount to preach the introductory sermon at the next association. Bro. G. J. Canant, alternate.

As to the place of holding the next association, we refer that question to the present body.

E. H. Majors, Chairman.

Report on finance read as follows:

We, your committee on finance would make the following report: We find paid from the different churches for State Missions $115.25; home missions $19.15; foreign missions $20.50; Baptist orphanage

$70.86; indigent ministers $1.50: association purposes $6.50; minutes $28.90; from Geneva Baptist church, collection on childrens day for A. U. B. S. $3.60; for B. S. S. Bd $4.04. Total $270.30.

Adopted M. M. Dean, Chairman.

Bro. A. R. Hardy appealed to the Association for $100.00 to aid in building a Baptist church at Greensboro. He stated that just after the close of the late war, the Baptists of that town becoming too weak to keep up their organization turned over their church property to the State Convention to be sold and the money used in having missionary work done in the State, with the understanding that the money be refunded should they ever become strong enough to reorganize. The property was sold for $6000.00 and during all these years the Baptists of Greensboro have reconstituted, they ask that $6000.00 be given back to them. And the association, recognizing it as an honest debt, authorized the Executive committee to apportion among the churches the amount each should pay and urge each church to try to raise the amount.

Adoniram 5.00; Christian Home 2.00; Elbethel 5.00; Fellowship 3.00 Friendship 10.00; Geneva 25.00; Hurricane 2.50; Leonia 10.00; New Hope 10.00; New Prospect 5.00; New Teamon 7.50; Pilgrims Rest Coffee 2.00, Pilgrims Rest Dale 11.00, Pleasant Grove 7.50, Pleasant Hill 10.00, Shiloh Spring Creek 4.00, Union 2.00, Zion Hill 4.00.

The Executive committee was also authorized to employ a missionary to preach in the destitution in and near our bounds, when the following ammounts were pledged to sustain him.

Pleasant Grove 10.00, Adoniram 6.00, Spring Creek 5.00, New Hope 10 00, Zion Hill 5 00, Union 5 00, Leonia 10 00, Hurricane 5 00, Shiloh 10 00, Geneva 75 00, New Hope L A Society 5 00, Leonia L A Society 25o, J T Starling 5 00.

The following ministers preached as appointed by the committee on religious exercises:

James Blount 4 o'clock p. m. Wednesday; S. O. Y. Ray 11 a m Thursday: A. R. Hardy 8 p m Thursday and 11 a m Friday.

Treasurers report as follows:—Received of finance committee $270.30 in cash and vouchers. Thursday's collection, $4.88. Total $275.18. Vouchers $239.40; for minutes $30.90. Cash turned over to executive committee $4.88. W. L. Chancey.

Moved and carried that the clerk be required to have 500 copies of minutes printed and each church to receive its pro rata share and the clerk to have balance for his services.

Bro. Chancey offered the following: "Resolved that we, the delegates and visitors of this association tender our heartfelt thanks to this church and entire vicinity for the kindness extended to us while among them and especially to the ladies, who have the burden to bear on all occasions like this." Unanimously adopted by the body.

On motion of Bro. Moseley the association adjourned to meet with the Fellowship Baptist church, nine miles north of the town of Geneva on Wednesday before the 4th Sunday in October 1897.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Temperance—P. N. Hickman, J. T. Mitchell, George Canant. Missions—C. A. O'Neal, J. W. Austin, T. F. Sellars. Sunday Schools—A. B. Jernigan, Ed Roach, J. S. McCormick. Executive Committee—A W Bean, R. Mills, H. J. Owens.

J. F. Register,
Moderator.

W. L. Chancey,
Clerk

STATISTICS OF GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 1896,

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Membership last reported	Increase by Restoration	Increase by Voucher	Increase by Letter	Increase by Baptism	Decr by Death	Decr by Erasure	Decr by Exclusion	Decr by Letter	Present membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL Officers and Teachers	SUNDAY SCHOOL Pupils	SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendents Name	Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
Adoniram	G. J. Canant	T. W. Carter	59	9	4		8		8		1	74	4	45	W. L. Chancey, Hart ord.'Ala	2		
Christian Home	G. J. Canant	C. T. Love	21	31	8	3		3				63	5	47	M. M. Skipper, Hartford, Ala		I	I
Elbethel	H. S. Nicholds	R. H. Foxhall	70	24	6	3	2	5	2		1	97	6	54	P. B. Davis, Coffee Springs Ala	I	I	I
Fellowship	Jas. Blount	Jas. J. Watson	30	36	13	7		2			2	76				2		
Friendship	P. L. Moseley	T. W. Capps	83	1				7			2	75	4	40	C. L. Garrett, Costilla, Ala	3		
Geneva	P. L. Moseley	W. W. Barnell	142	41	19		1	11			5	188	17	107	A. W. Bean, Geneva, Ala	I&3	I	
Hurricane	J. F. Register	G. W. Pitman	23	8	3			1				33				4		
Leonia	J. F. Register	R. P. Hardee	63	12	5		1		1			80	4	25	J. A. Gilman, Sterling, Fla	4		
New Hope	J. F. Register	J. E. Dancy	65	10	5			2	3		1	74	5	21		2		
New Prospect	J. F. Register	B. R. Messer	38	1	3						1	42	5		J. W. Austin, Marl, Ala	I		
New Teamon	S. Willerford	L. M. Tate	73	2	4		3	3	9			70						
Pilgrims Rest	J. F. Register	F. E. Bedsole										39						
Pilgrims Rest	G. J. Canant	L. A. Carroll	110		2			4	7		1	109						
Pleasant Grove	Jno. Patt n	W. H. Grubbs	74	9	6		3	3				89				4		
Pleasant Hill	Jas. Blount	J. C. Russell	85	2	5		1	8	2			83						
Shiloh	Jas. Blount	J. M. Whitehead	94	8	4			2	3		1	100						
Spring Creek	J. L. C. White	M A Crutchfield	40	2				1	3		1	38						
Union	N. J. Peters	J. J. A. Martin	21	2	4			1				26						
Zion Hill	S. Willerford	Joe. Pelham	28	5	1							34						

Financial Ex. GENEVA BAPTIST ASS'IATION 1896

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S P. O.	MISSIONS				Ed'ca'l	HOME EXPENSES			Sunday School Missions	Sexton	Sunday Schools	Value of Church Property
				State Voucher	Home Voucher	Foreign Voucher	Association Voucher	Orphans Home	Pastors	Salary	Repairs fuel the poor etc.	Sunday Schools				
Adonlram	G. J. Canant	T. W. Carter	Hartford, Ala				1.50		1.00							$150
Christian Home	G. J. Canant	C. T. Love	Watford, Ala						1.50	32.80						$150
Elbethel	G. S. Nicholds	R. H. Foxhall	Costilla, Ala				.50		1.00					2.00		$150
Fellowship	Jas. Blount	Jas. J. Watson	High Bluff, Ala						2.00	59.00	1.85					$250
Friendship	P. L. Moseley	T. W. Capps	Costilla, Ala	6.70					2.00	50.00						$500
Geneva	P. L. Moseley	W. W. Barnell	Geneva, Ala	9530	1915	1915		7011	15.00	60.00	1.50					$1250
Hurricane	J. F. Register	G. W. Pitman	Limestone, Fla	1.00					1.40	25.00						$700
Leouia	J. F. Register	R. P. Hardee	Barker, Fla	1.80					1.50	30.00		1.00				$300
New Hope	J. F. Register	J. E. Dancy	Pitt, Fla	3.85	1.35	1.35			1.00	50.00		4.20		2.70		
New Prospect	J. F. Register	B. R. Messer	Marl, Ala	2.00					1.00							$350
New Teamon	S. Willerford	L. M. Tate	Warwick, Ala					.75	.70							
Pilgrims Rest	J. F. Register	F. E. Bedsole	Warwick, Ala						.70							
Pilgrims Rest	G. J. Canant	L. A. Carroll	Wicksburg, Ala						1.50							$350
Pleasant Grove	Jno. Patton	W. H. Grubbs	Eunola, Ala				.50		1.50							$150
Pleasant H ll	Jas. Blount	J. C. Russell	Dundee, Ala				1.50		2.00							$400
Shiloh	Ja . Blount	J. M. Whitehead	Dundee, Ala	4.00					5.00							$100
Spring Creek	J. L. C. White	M A Crutchfield	Geneva, Ala				.50		.50							
Union	N. J. Peters	J. J. A. Martin	Lumpton, Ala						1.00	12.50						
Zion Hill	S. S Willerford	Joe. Pelham	Coatsville, Fla						1.00							$250